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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 1 and 15 September 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

98-27699 (E) 220998 220998

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Annex

Violations and damage caused, 1-15 September 1998

1. In the northern region 112 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 672 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Rifa'i, Najaf, Qal'at Salih, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Nukhayb, Shaykh Sa'd, Ali al-Gharbi, Jabal Sanam, Diwaniyah, Lasaf and Safwan.

3. Ten violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1400 hours on 25 August a naval vessel flying the flag of the United States approached the freighter Poland. Information was requested concerning the freighter, its cargo and its flag and port of registration. The vessel then left in the direction of the open sea.

5. At 1028, 1044 and 1325 hours on 5 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr and Faw.

6. At 1100 hours on 6 September United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1210 hours on 6 September a formation of United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the Jabal Maqlub area of Mosul.